



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

March 9, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KIM PETTRY
304-558-2021

**ATTORNEY GENERAL MCGRAW AWARDS FUNDING TO MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION
FROM THE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of \$50,000 to the Mercer County Commission for the operation of its day report center. This money comes from the latest installment in the \$10,000,000 settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin.

Day report centers are alternative sentencing programs for low risk substance abusers. Day report centers have been successfully used to save taxpayer dollars and to effectively treat substance abusers. The daily cost of day reporting centers can be as low as \$5.00 per person or a \$43.50 savings daily, when this program is used over incarceration in regional jails.

"The courts and the legislature have indicated a desire to use these programs as an alternative to prisons. The cost of housing non-violent offenders in regional jails has proven costly to taxpayers and counties. No citizen wants to see vital county services sacrificed because of the high cost of housing low risk offenders in regional jails." McGraw stated.

"These projects are expected to give offenders, who the courts consider to be low risk to the community, the opportunity to repair themselves and to rebuild their lives. That preserves families, reduces recidivism and spares taxpayers and cash-strapped counties the expense of housing offenders who would be better rehabilitated in their communities and among their families." McGraw added.

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia \$10 million over four years and the awards came from the second installment of \$2.5 million.

###